

From Belief to Boldness: The Spiritual Journey of Strength
Psalm 27
Psalms: Encountering God's Heart from His Playlist

By Dave Urbanski

On Sunday, Pastor Scott took us through Psalm 27 — which he said is an incredibly personal psalm from King David, mirroring the close, personal relationship David had with God.

More than that, it's an example to all of us of what our personal relationships with the Lord can be.

Like many of Pastor Scott's messages of late — and particularly ones we've heard involving the Psalms — the battle between fear and faith is primary.

David starts Psalm 27 with two questions: "The Lord is my light and my salvation; whom shall I fear? The Lord is the stronghold of my life; of whom shall I be afraid?"

They are questions all Christians can relate to. Fears and anxieties are normal parts of life — and in our present time with society at odds and institutions getting torn down and faith in Christ assailed at every turn, fear and anxiety are on overdrive for many of us. But when the Lord is our light, our salvation, and our stronghold, truly what is there to be afraid of?

Pastor Scott noted that David likely composed Psalm 27 later in his life after he had been through many battles against the enemies of Israel — and because of all the evil and danger the Lord brought him through, David was quite confident in God's power.

It's this kind of confidence in the Lord that builds faith, Pastor Scott explained to us — and which should lead toward deeper steps of faith for us, and ultimately more spiritual growth and impact on the world around us.

How confident are you today in the Lord's power in your life? If it's not as robust as it should be, ask yourself why that is? Have you been placing your trust and emphasis on other things that are failing? Are you disappointed in certain circumstances or outcomes or struggles? If so, are you willing to ask the Lord to pick you up, dust you off, forgive you, and help you to reassert your confidence in him?

David composed a word-picture of what that spiritual growth-discipleship process looks like for him, noting in verse 5 that the Lord will "hide me in his shelter in the day of trouble" and will "conceal me under the cover of his tent" and will "lift me high on a rock." But it doesn't end there. The Lord's care and protection is for a REASON. In verse 6, David says that as a result, he is able to lift up his head before his enemies and make a sacrifice to the Lord "with shouts of joy" as he sings and makes "melody to the Lord." What an incredible picture! God doesn't want

us to lap up his protection and blessings as we keep to ourselves. May it never be so! Instead, his blessing and protection should spur us on to partner with the Lord in his redemptive plan for humanity. What part are you playing?

Pastor Scott pointed out that David's admission that his father and mother have forsaken him but that the Lord "will take me in" (verse 10) has implications for many of us if we've had difficult relationships with our own parents. I know that's a struggle of mine. But as Pastor Scott shared, another step on this road of discipleship is to take down our parents from the position of supreme importance in our lives and replace them with Jesus — he should be the one on the throne of our hearts. He will be the parent we've always wanted and needed and will never fail to always take us in.

In addition, David's prayer that the Lord would "teach me your way" (verse 11) should be our prayer and desire as well, particularly "because of my enemies" — because of all the noise and danger and obstacles and deceit and sin that's literally in our faces on a daily basis. But the "level path" God desires for us is ours if we want it.

Ultimately, David is looking forward to all of this to culminate in rejoicing in heaven when his life is over — "in the land of the living" (verse 13). And if you're getting anxious, wondering when God will deliver you, David's instruction to us is to simply ... wait on the Lord.

Where are you right now? Do you feel as though your strength is waning and running out? Ask yourself where that strength is coming from. Is it the strength you're trying to generate by being "better" or moving ahead in your life and career and relationships? If so, how about asking Jesus to give you his strength instead? To teach you his ways ... to forge a level path for you ... so you can in turn worship him and praise him and just know him better. And finally ... wait for Jesus to respond. When we come to him in humility, he never fails to do just that.